

TRIBUTE TO KOON-JA KIM

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to 81-year-old Koon-Ja Kim, a survivor of the Japanese Imperial Army's "comfort women" system of the World War II era.

Koon-Ja Kim was born in Pyung-Chang, in Korea's Kangwon Province. She was orphaned at the age of 14 and, to support herself and her siblings, she worked as a maid. At the age of 17, she was forcibly drafted by the Japanese Government to serve as a sex slave, or what is now euphemistically termed a "comfort woman," in China. After 3 years of being physically abused and raped on a daily basis, the war ended. With no money and physically defeated bodies, she and a small group of other women summoned their strength of spirit to walk hundreds of miles over several weeks back into Korea.

Since 1998 she has been living with nine former comfort women at the House of Sharing. All she wants in her remaining life is to receive an official apology and fair compensation from the Japanese Government. She plans to donate the money to the public if she receives the compensation. Until now, Kim had collected compensation she had received from the Korean Government—\$43,000—and her life savings, and donated \$100,000 to the Beautiful Foundation, which provides financial aid for orphans to continue their studies, \$10,000 to the House of Sharing, and \$5,000 to a Catholic organization.

At the Beautiful Foundation, the "Kim Koon-Ja Fund" was established in 2000, where the proceeds go to college students who grew up at orphanages so that they can continue with their education. Kim dedicates her life to helping disadvantaged children to attain education because she herself grew up as an orphan, and the only education she had received was 8 months at a night school.

The House of Sharing Establishment Committee was founded in June 1992 and is supported by Buddhist organizations and other donors. Koon-Ja Kim, along with other women at the House of Sharing and around the world, has engaged in a daily battle since 1992 to educate the public about the Japanese military's brutal abuse of women, and to put pressure on the Japanese Government to apologize for their past atrocities. Koon-Ja Kim meets with community organizations, students, and activists from South Korea, the United States, and other countries around the world to inspire others to know and advocate for the comfort women's cause.

Madam Speaker, on February 15, the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment of the Committee on Foreign Affairs will convene a hearing entitled "Protecting the Human Rights of Comfort Women." Koon-Ja Kim has been invited to share her story with members of the subcommittee along with other surviving comfort women who want to see justice prevail.

On January 31, I introduced H. Res. 121, which expresses "the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed

Force's coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as 'comfort women,' during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Koon-Ja Kim and the thousands of surviving comfort women.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 808 "DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE ACT"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise in strong support of H.R. 808, the "Department of Peace and Nonviolence Act." This bill places efforts toward peace and nonviolence high on this Nation's list of priorities, efforts which deserve the same attention and organizational structure that this government gives war through its Department of Defense.

I thank the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH, for introducing this legislation, to reduce violence both within our borders and across the globe.

Here at home, the Department of Peace would seek to reduce domestic violence, gang violence, child abuse, violence in schools, hate crimes, racial violence, and mistreatment of the elderly. It would also seek to develop peace education programs, instructing students in peaceful conflict resolution skills both at home and abroad.

The Department of Peace would also strive to make a difference in the current United States foreign policy. This administration's attitude toward the international community has been far too aggressive, while critical human rights issues have been ignored. The Department of Peace would analyze these aspects of foreign policy and make recommendations to the President to ensure that human rights are protected and to lessen armed international conflict as a whole. Specifically, the Department of Peace and Nonviolence would seek to strengthen nonmilitary means of peacemaking and to promote the development of human potential. It is high time for the United States to change its approach to diplomatic efforts.

We have seen in Iraq how an aggressive foreign policy can destroy so many lives, throw a country into chaos and civil war, and drain the resources and social services of the American people. We are tired of this war, yet the President announced yesterday that he wants another \$235 billion for military operations in the Middle East, while cutting away funds for the American people, such as healthcare and transportation.

Let us get our priorities straight. Let us put the American people's tax dollars in programs that benefit them, not in this meaningless war. Let us promote policies of peace and make this world a better place.

HONORING GEORGE B. GOULD
IN RETIREMENT**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George B. Gould for over 27 years of dedicated service to the National Association of Letter Carriers, NALC.

Since joining NALC in 1979, George has been a legislative consultant involved in numerous issues, such as budget, appropriations, health care, retirement, and education. Through his advocacy, on behalf of the 300,000 members of NALC, George has made great progress on issues affecting postal operations. This progress includes his instrumental work in the creation of NALC's political action fund as well as his work in advancing political freedoms for federal workers through his efforts in reforming the Hatch Act in 1993.

During his career, Mr. Gould co-chaired the Coalition to Preserve the Postal Service, a group consisting of representatives from the mailers community, the U.S. Postal Service, the postal supervisors and managers, and postal unions. The coalition worked to secure funds for the anthrax cleanup, to bring Civil Service Retirement System funding to the Postal Service, and to make general postal reforms.

Mr. Gould also chaired the Fund for Assuring an Independent Retirement, FAIR, Committee on Legislative and Political Affairs. Representing over 8 million active and retired employees, FAIR fights to protect and enhance Federal employee pensions and other benefits.

Mr. Gould has been recognized by *Regardie's Magazine* on their Power 100 List of the most influential people in Washington. Additionally, he has been featured in *Roll Call*, *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *Legal Times*, *The Federal Times*, and *The Boston Globe* for his effective and tireless lobbying efforts. Mr. Gould has also received acknowledgement from Project Vote and in 1990 he received the "Good Guy" award from the National Women's Political Caucus.

It was apparent to all those who worked with George that he had a knack for the policy process and a desire to improve public policy for the Federal employee. Drawing on his years of experience, Mr. Gould went out of his way to be a teacher and mentor to the staff of NALC. As his last act of service, he trained an able replacement to ensure that the ideals and issues important to NALC do not suffer in his absence.

Madam Speaker, in closing I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. George B. Gould on all of his accomplishments. His efforts have deeply impacted the public discussion, but more importantly the policy that affects the postal service, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding George for his past accomplishments and in wishing him a happy and healthy retirement.